LATVIAN LEGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

rec'd. Sept. 28, 1950

UNA/R Adviser on Refugees
and Displaced Persons
Handled Personally
SEP 29 1950
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Office of United Nations Affairs.

September 27, 1950

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY W. Gahnon DATE 9/1/83
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH Mr. Natsios REASON(S) Extension
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA/FOI EXEMPTIONS

Mr. Valdemar N. L. Johnson
International Relations Officer
Office of Eastern European Affairs
Department of State
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I am referring to our recent conversation in which I asked you whether the decision of the Displaced Persons Commission of September 1, 1950, in regard to the admission of the former Latvian soldiers, recalls the date line established by the previous decision of that Commission, and whether this new decision does not contain any cutoff date at all. You explained to me then that according to your information there is no cutoff date involved in the decision of the Displaced Persons Commission of September 1, 1950.

I enclose herewith two copies of the Interoffice Memorandum of the U.S. Displaced Persons Commission Headquarters, Frankfurt, APO 757, of September 15, 1950, according to which

> "Members of the Waffen S.S. Divisions who started military service before the first compulsory conscription in April 1943 will be regarded as volunteers and therefore outside the mandate of IRO unless they can give proof to the contrary.
>
> "Members of the Waffen S.S. who had a prior choice of serving in the Reichsarbeitsdienst or the Wehrmacht and who volunteered for the Waffen S.S. are outside the mandate of IRO".

As you will remember, according to documentation submitted by me, the general mobilization in Latvia took place in February 1943 and, consequently, the mention of April 1943 in the enclosed Memorandum would eliminate a great part of our former

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soldiers.

I should be very grateful to you if you would inform me exactly what is the position of the Displaced Persons Commission as to this point.

Please let me know if I should submit a note on this issue or whether this my letter will be sufficient to clarify the matter.

Very sincerely yours,

J. Feldmans

JF:ml

Enclosures

"In document No. 3302 of the Nuremberg trials we read: Secret telegram from SS General Jeckeln, SS Police Chief for the Ostland in Riga, to SS Reichfuhrer Himmler's personal staff in Berlin, on 19 February 1943 : "There is complete agreement between the Ostland Commander of the Wehrmacht, Saukel's special agent and myself. In a few days the Joint Board will review the years 1919-1925 (Musterung). All men fit for service (brauchbar - employable) go to front, to the Legion; those who are not 100% fit will be sent to the commander of the Wehrmacht as Hilfswillige (auxiliaries) for the Northern Army Group; those who are fit only for work will be placed at the disposal of Gauleiter Sauckel".

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM
U.S. DISPLACED PERSONS COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS
FRANKFURT, APO 757

TO : ALL SENIOR OFFICERS (please Acknowledge) Insttr. Memo No. 168

FROM : Ugo Carusi Date: 15. Sept. 1950.

SUBJECT : Baltic Waffen SS Units (Baltic Legions)

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1. At a meeting of the Commission held September 1, 1950, the Followir decision was duly made:

"That the Baltic Waffen S.S. Units (Baltic Legions) are to be considered as separate and distinct in purpose, ideology, activities, and qualifications for membership from the German S.S., and therefore the Commission holds them not to be a movement hostile to the Government of the United States under Section 13 of the Displaced Persons Act, as amended."

2. Accordingly, cases involving members of those units will be processed and decided in the same manner and by the same standards required by th law and regulations in other military cases, particularly in respect of satisfying paragraph 702.8 (e) and (f) of the Commission's Rules and Regulations and Section 13 in its entirety.

3. In this regard, Instruction Memoranda 150 and 151 are still in full force and effect.

4. Where a file does not have incorporated therein the Berlin Document Centre or Central Intelligence Agency checks in conformance with memoranda above referred to, these should be requisitioned immediately upon receipt o the file in the area.

5. Since the Commission must determine eligibility and, pursuant to Section 10, it cannot certify such an applicant as eligible under the Act i it knows or has reason to believe that the alien is not a displaced person and an eligible displaced person, the following excerpt of the IRO Manual For Eligibility Officers is set forth for your background information in dealing with these cases:

"Members of the Waffen S.S. Divisions who started military service before the first compulsory conscription in April 1943 will be regarded as volunteers and therefore outside the mandate of IRO unless they can give proof to the contrary.

Members of the Waffen S.S. who had a prior choice of serving in the Reichsarbeitsdienst or the Wehrmacht and who volunteered for the Waffen S.S. are outside the mandate of IRO".

UGO CARUSI
Chairman